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Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I know if the Government have any idea of helping the taluk boards financially or if they are going to allow them to remain in a state of suspended animation?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"I do not think the Government will be in a position to help the taluk boards financially."

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed:—"Will the hon. Minister please state the proportion of the existing taluk boards that are in a financially sound position?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"Sir, 86 taluk boards have a permanent deficit, and about 30 of them have just enough money to pay their establishment out of a total of 213."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"May I ask whether in some of the taluk boards the pay of very many employees is in arrears for several months together?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"I believe so."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"Will the hon. the Chief Minister please say what advice or proposal the Government have placed before these taluk boards to enable them to carry on their normal work?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"It has not been possible to do anything definite. The matter is still under consideration."

Grants, if any, paid from the Road Development Fund on account of improvements to roads.

* 280 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any grants have been paid from the Road Development Fund for the opening or improvement of roads in any district of this Presidency; and

(*b*) if so, what amount has been paid and for which districts?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) No grant has been paid from the Road Development Fund for the opening of new roads. A statement [a] showing the grants already disbursed or sanctioned for improvements to roads is appended.

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"May I ask whether the petrol-tax collected from each district is not paid to the Road Development Fund?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"A portion of the tax so collected is paid to the provinces."

Mr. A. B. Shetty:—"May I know why only four districts have received grants from this fund, when every district is contributing to the Road Development Fund?"

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—"It was done this year, but it may not be economical to distribute this grant to all the districts."

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[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 394 infra.

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Mr. M. S. SRESHTA :—" May I know on what principle distribution is made from this fund to the various districts? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" Government take into consideration the urgency and importance of the various schemes submitted and then recommend to the Government of India for sanction."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Have the Government any considered programme by which each district will sooner or later benefit by this fund? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" They have no definite programme laid down. It is, however, the intention of Government to distribute the benefits to all the districts."

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur :—" May I ask whether grants have been made from this fund for constructing bridges in the Nellore district? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" I believe funds have been made available for some districts."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know why no contribution has been made out of this fund for the repair of the Great Southern Trunk Road at South Arcot? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" The available amount has been sanctioned for various purposes."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA :—" May I enquire whether, in the matter of roads, South Kanara is worse than practically every other district? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" I have no personal knowledge, Sir."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur :—" May I know whether item (3), viz., improvements to the Madras-Calicut Trunk road and extension—first section from Calicut southwards, furnished in the appendix to the answer to this question, does not cover trunk roads in the district of South Kanara also? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" I must ask for notice."

Construction of a bridge between Chidambaram and Bhavanagiri.

* 281 *Q.*—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any amount was sanctioned by the Government to the district board of South Arcot for the construction of a bridge between Chidambaram and Bhavanagiri;

(*b*) if so, what the amount is and when the same was sanctioned;

(*c*) whether the construction of the bridge has been completed; and

(*d*) if not, when the same is to be completed; and what the total cost thereof is?